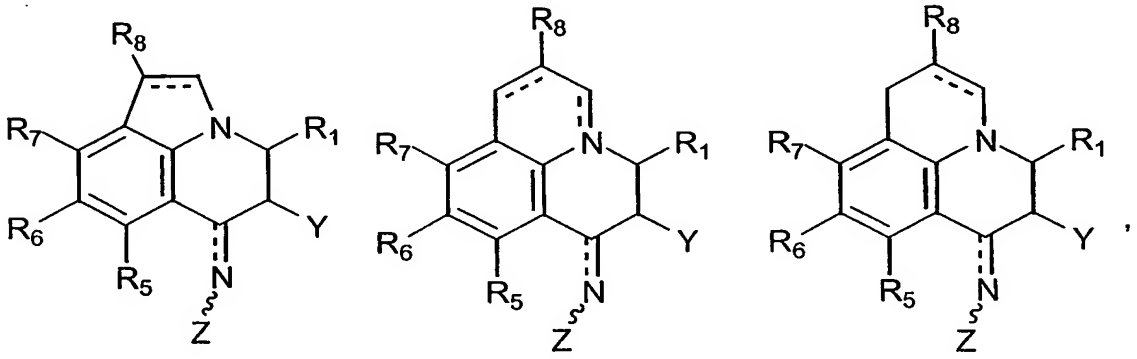
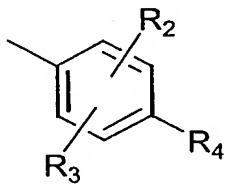
or when X is $NR_{12}$, the substituent $R_{12}$ may be a bond such that $R_8$ and X together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form one of the following structures:



where Y is



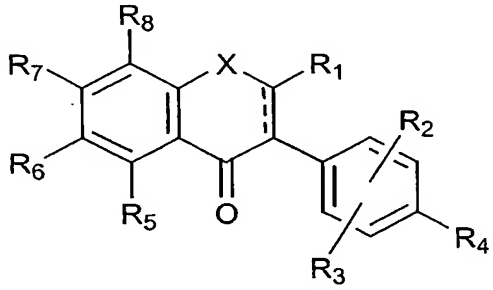
and wherein

$R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$ and Z are as defined above, and

the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond,

which compounds include pharmaceutically acceptable salts and derivatives thereof.

2. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) comprising the step of reacting the 4-keto group of a compound of the formula (X):



(X)

wherein

$R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, $R_8$ and X are as defined in claim 1, and

the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond,
with an aminating agent.

3. A method for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of a disease or disorder which method includes the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof to a subject.

4. A method for the treatment, prevention or amelioration of diseases associated with aberrant cell survival, aberrant cell proliferation, abnormal cellular migration, abnormal angiogenesis, abnormal estrogen/androgen balance, dysfunctional or abnormal steroid genesis, degeneration including degenerative changes within blood vessel walls, inflammation, and immunological imbalance, which comprises administering to a subject one or more compounds of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier and/or excipient.

5. A method of inducing apoptosis in cells expressing abnormal prosurvival phenotype which comprises contacting said cells with one or more compounds of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier or excipient.

6. A method for inhibiting migration of cells having an abnormal cellular migration phenotype which comprises contacting said cells with a compound of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier or excipient.

7. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis in tissue expressing aberrant angiogenic phenotype which comprises contacting said tissue with a compound of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier or excipient.

8. A method for the treatment, prevention or amelioration of cancer in a mammal which method comprises the step of bringing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof into contact with cancerous tissue in a mammal that is suffering from a tumour, such that neoplastic development in said cancerous tissue is retarded or arrested.

9. Use of one or more compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder.

10. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof as an anti-inflammatory agent.

11. An agent for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of a disease or disorder, which agent comprises one or more compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises one or more compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof in association with one or more pharmaceutical carriers, excipients, auxiliaries and/or diluents.

13. A drink or food-stuff, which contains one or more compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

14. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as herein described with reference to the Examples and/or accompanying drawings.